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Excavations in Cranborne Chase, near Rushmore, on the borders of Dorset and Wilts, 1880-1888, by Lieutenant General Pitt Rivers. Vol. II. Printed privately, 1888.

Volume II of General Pitt Rivers's work upon excavations at Cranborne Chase, near Rushmore, England, has made its appearance. The exploration was made under the most favorable conditions, and these splendid volumes bear testimony to the great learning and experience of their author. It is in every essential an ideal piece of archæologic work. A prefatory paragraph from the second volume expresses the author's views upon the matter of investigation and publication and serves to characterize the work so far accomplished.

"I have endeavored to keep up in the present volume the minute attention to detail with which investigation commenced. Much that is recorded may never prove of further use, but even in the case of such matter superfluous precision may be regarded as a fault on the right side, where the arrangement is such as to facilitate reference and enable a selection to be made. A good deal of the rash and hasty generalization of our time arises from the unreliability of the evidence upon which it is based. It is next to impossible to give a continuous narrative of any archæological investigation that is entirely free from bias. Undue stress will be laid upon facts that seem to have an important bearing upon theories that are current at the time, whilst others that might come to be considered of greater value afterwards are put in the background or not recorded, and posterity is endowed with a legacy of error that can never be rectified. But when fullness and accuracy are made the chief subject of study this evil is in a great measure avoided."

Three distinct periods are comprehended in the work: The Bronze Age, the period of the Romanized Britons, and the Anglo-Saxon period. When we come to consider that this thick quarto volume, with upwards of five hundred carefully drawn and engraved illustrations, covers an area contained within a radius of about three-quarters of a mile, we realize the richness of the field and the finished character of the work.

W. H. HOLMES.